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## Tractor Day draws a crowd

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By Scott Unger  
May 19, 2008



*Photo By State Journal/Hilly Schiffer*

Franklin County High School senior Katie Hogan drives agriculture teacher Kylen Douglas' tractor to school for the Future Farmers of America's "Bring Your Tractor to School Day" Friday morning. Hogan just learned how to drive a tractor this week.

Following the blinking lights of a Sheriff's escort, a line of seven tractors slowly traveled down Georgetown Road Friday morning on their way to Franklin County High School.

The convoy was made up of four John Deere's, a Ford, a Massie Ferguson and a White. Two other students rode lawn tractors across a field to meet the group at FCHS.

Students from Kylen Douglas' agriculture club brought the farm equipment as part of the 2nd annual Bring Your Tractor to School Day at FCHS.

"It's a good tradition to show the community and the students how important agriculture is," Douglas said. "It gives the kids the opportunity to kind of show off."

Three of the students have yet to earn their driver's licenses, but that wasn't a problem, Douglas said.

"It's not a Kentucky state law that you have to have a license," Douglas said. "As long as it's farm equipment and you're handling it in a proper manner."

"I was driving (tractors) way before I had my license," he said.

Once the tractors made the trip from the Franklin County Extension Office, they were greeted at FCHS by more than 100 students and teachers, eager to check out the equipment.

"We're excited about this opportunity for our students," said FCHS principal Sharon Collett. "It helps some of our students who depend on McDonald's to realize there's an alternative food source, and this is how you get to it."

"I think it's cool," said sophomore Bethany Hickman. "They just make me smile."

When the tractors were parked, students were given an up-close view of the machinery, while the agriculture students answered their questions.

"The students come out and look at (the tractors) and they'll get to talk about it, what the tractors do and things like that," Douglas said.

Douglas said he got the idea from his high school in Union County and the event is quickly becoming a success.

"This is the second year we've done this and we've almost doubled tractor numbers," he said. "We had six last year, now we have nine or 10 this year."

The riding lawn mowers that joined the seven tractors were just as important, Douglas said.

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"They're as much a part of agriculture as anything else," Douglas said. "A lot of agriculture in the community is now landscaping."

FFA president Katie Hogan, 17, said she learned to drive a tractor for the demonstration Friday.

"I learned how to drive two days ago, as you can tell I'm not very good with the clutch," Hogan said about operating the 260 White.

The event gives students a chance to see farm equipment up close, Hogan said.

"Some of them have never seen or ridden on a tractor or anything," Hogan said. "This is good for them, getting to see some agricultural stuff, hands on."

"It's fun to see all the kids who haven't been on a tractor out here around them," said agriculture student Josh Aldridge, 18, who operated a 281 Massie Ferguson.

Both the 260 White and the 281 Massie Ferguson were brought in by Douglas to give his students, all members of FFA, experience operating them. Douglas sponsors the club.

"I don't live on a farm and I don't have a tractor," Aldridge said. "Mr. Douglas brought his out for me to drive."

Douglas said he plans to continue holding the event year after year at FCHS.

"Every year as long as I'm here, we'll have bring your tractor to school day," he said. "This is my favorite event to do because I love tractors and I think the kids share as much interest as I do."



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